

Message Text

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11

ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 AEC-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 RSR-01 /041 W
----- 080302

R 140630Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1505
INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 4525

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, AS,PP

SUBJ: POSSIBLE BECHTEL SITE STUDY IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

REF: CANBERRA 4080

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED CONTRADICTORY RESPONSES FROM
GOA ELEMENTS CONTACTED RE THIS SUBJECT.

2. ON AUGUST 7 EMBASSY INFORMED BY TELEPHONE THAT, IN
OPINION DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL TERRITORIES (DET) "NEXT
STEP SHOULD BE CONSULTATION BETWEEN PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG)
AUTHORITIES AND COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED." ANY
GOA OBJECTIONS WOULD BE MADE KNOWN THROUGH PNG GOVT.

3. INASMUCH AS DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA) HAD
ALSO BEEN CONTACTED IN EFFORT TO EXPEDITE RESPONSE,
EMBASSY REQUESTED DFA CONFIRMATION THIS POSITION BEFORE
INFORMING DEPARTMENT. ALAN BROWN, ACTING ASSISTANT
SECRETARY, ECONOMIC POLICY BRANCH, DESCRIBED DET REPLY
AS "INTERESTING" BUT REQUESTED EMBASSY WITHOLD FURTHER
ACTION UNTIL FURTHER WORD FROM DFA.

4. ON AUGUST 13, BROWN COMMENTED TO EMBOFF DURING
CALL ON OTHER MATTERS THAT HE HAD NOT YET BEEN ABLE
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REACH RESPONSIBLE OFFICER IN DET BUT EXPECTED DO SO

WITHIN NEXT DAY OR SO AND BE IN TOUCH WITH EMBASSY.
EXPLAINED THAT DIFFICULT AS FAR AS DFA CONCERNED
WAS POSSIBLE IMPLICATION IN GOA APPROVAL THAT SOURCE
OF URANIUM FOR ENIRCHMENT WOULD BE AUSTRALIA. THIS
WOULD NOT BE CONSISTENT WITH VIEWS OF MINISTER MINERALS
AND ENERGY CONNOR WHO BROWN SAID WAS PUBLICLY COMMITTED
TO POLICY OF NOT SUPPLYING URANIUM TO NON-SIGNATORIES
NON PROLIFERATION TREATY.

5. COMMENT. THIS IS SECOND VERSION OF GOA BUREACRACY'S
APPREHENSION OVER POSSIBLE CONNOR OBJECTIONS THIS PROJECT
(PARA 2 REFTEL), EMBASSY WILL RELAY ANY RESPONSE RECEIVED
WHEN AVAILABLE BUT DOES NOT CONSIDER IT ADVISABLE PRESS
GOA FURTHER AT THIS POINT.

GREEN

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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